



The Antarctic Society

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HONORARY PRESIDENT

Dr. Robert H. Rutford

PRESIDENT

Dr. Anthony J. Gow
117 Poverty Lane
Lebanon, NH 03766
petprotector@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Liesl Scherthanner
P.O. Box 3307
Ketchum, ID 83340
schernli@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple
Box 325
Port Clyde, ME 04855
Phone: (207) 372-6523
pcdal@roadrunner.com

SECRETARY

Joan Boothe
2435 Divisadero Drive
San Francisco, CA 94115
HooDooskr@aol.com

WEBMASTER

Thomas Henderson
520 Normanskill Place
Slingerlands, NY 12159
webmaster@antarctican.org

ARCHIVIST

Charles Lagerbom
16 Peacedale Drive
Northport, ME 04849
icechip@bluestreakme.com

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Guy Guthridge
gguthrid@yahoo.com

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A NEWSLETTER BY AND FOR MEMBERS

Antarctican Society members wrote more than three-quarters of this issue. Topics range from experiences at the start of the U.S. Antarctic Program in the 1950s to a moment 106 years ago when American Robert Peary *almost* pulled off an expedition to the geographic South Pole. Read on!

This issue of the newsletter comes out on the eve of the 15-17 July 2016 Antarctic Gathering at Treasurer Paul Dalrymple's house in Port Clyde, Maine. We announced the Gathering in the January and April newsletters and will summarize talks and other happenings in the next (September) issue. The issue will have room for other items, too, so please suggest or contribute articles of your own.

We've allowed the terrific contributions from members to squeeze out news about recent discoveries. One big one: scientists at MIT and elsewhere have identified first fingerprints of healing of the Antarctic ozone layer. The September ozone hole has shrunk 4 million square kilometers —half the area of the contiguous United States — since 2000, the peak year. Volcanic eruptions have slowed the recovery at times, but the new work shows the ozone hole to be on a healing path.

After scientists at McMurdo discovered the cause of the ozone hole in the mid-1980s, virtually every country signed on to the Montreal Protocol to ban the use of CFCs and repair the ozone hole.

"We can now be confident that the things we've done have put the planet on a path to heal," says Susan Solomon, lead author of the new study and chief scientist of the McMurdo research teams 30 years ago. "Which is pretty good for us, isn't it? Aren't we amazing humans, that we did something that created a situation that we decided collectively, as a world, 'Let's get rid of these molecules'? We got rid of them, and now we're seeing the planet respond."

Guy Guthridge

Deep Freeze I was a stepping stone to my career in space physics

by Ken Behannon

Graduating high school in 1951 at 17, I attended a small college. I thought I would be happiest with a career in journalism. At the end of that college year, I was no longer certain about that choice – or any alternative. Two high school buddies said they were going into the Navy. I decided joining them would give me a foundation while I figured out what to do with my life.

The Navy was building up its aviation, so we three went in as airman recruits rather than seaman recruits. After boot camp we attended Airman School. Following that, I was accepted into Aerology School, which trained me to be an Aerographers Mate: a weather observer. My first duty was at Mustin Field at the Naval Yard in Philadelphia, an auxiliary airfield with only a few AGs. On many weekends I was the only one on duty; I had to make forecasts and clear pilots for takeoff. After Mustin Field, I had a stint as the only weather analyst aboard USS *Pillsbury*, a destroyer escort converted to a radar picket ship. Meanwhile I had applied for a change of duty, hoping to get something more challenging.

I obtained a transfer to Air Development Squadron Six (VX-6), which would be supporting development of a base and an airstrip at McMurdo Sound in Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze I. I was assigned to the cargo ship USS *Wyandot* (AKA-92), a component of Task Force 43. I was an AG 2nd class by this time and one of several AGs on the *Wyandot*. We sailed from Norfolk, Virginia, on 14 November 1955 and via the Panama Canal arrived at Port Lyttelton, New Zealand, on 12 December. We waited in nearby Christchurch until 16 December for the Ross Sea pack ice to loosen sufficiently for the

icebreaker *Glacier* to lead us through without delays. We arrived at McMurdo Sound on 27 December and tied up to the ice. Construction supplies were offloaded and transported across the ice to Hut Point where the air facility was to be built.

As work proceeded, a heavy equipment driver named Richard T. Williams was killed when the big Caterpillar tractor he was driving crashed through ice into 100 fathoms of water en route to Hut Point. Later, the completed station was named Williams Air Operating Facility in his honor. Because of the danger, crew and special teams on board such as our weather staff with no work assignments on the ice were forbidden from going on foot any farther from the ship than the trash dump near the gangplank. On one of my few trips to the dump, a large seal was only a few feet away. Cautiously I walked over to look. Later I was told the seal could have swung its tail and broken my legs.

Aboard, we recorded hourly weather observations and periodically took balloon soundings aloft. We received weather reports from only a few other sources in that part of the world. Weather satellites were far in the future, so detailed daily forecasts for our location required a certain amount of guesswork.

When not on duty we delighted in observing whales surfacing, penguins racing each other over the ice on their bellies or lining up to dive into the water, and small icebergs nearby, which at times required the ship to move. We enjoyed looking toward 13,000-foot Mount Erebus, the only known active volcano on the Antarctic continent. Although it was 90 miles away, the Antarctic air was so crystal clear Erebus appeared to be just over the horizon.

Our ship became known as the Wyandot-Hilton, because it provided hot meals, showers, and berthing for Seabees, pilots, and plane crews. A special treat for us from 7 January to 3 February was for *Wyandot* to serve as flag ship for Admiral

Richard E. Byrd, making his final visit to Antarctica.

We adapted to the cold. Only one day did the temperature on deck rise as high as 37 degrees. Several of us off-duty AGs celebrated by donning swimming trunks and sitting on deck sunning, as if we were at the beach.

When our work in McMurdo Sound was complete we sailed to the site of Little America V, 400 miles to the east, arriving 12 February. Unlike our sea ice pier in McMurdo Sound, not much higher than the water, at Little America we tied to an ice shelf higher than the deck of the ship. We saw no penguins dive off that shelf. We stayed at the Little America location long enough to offload cargo, then set out for Auckland, New Zealand, a happy destination because we had enjoyed our stay in Christchurch on the way down and were ready to see green landscapes again.

The rest of the cruise was uneventful, even when we rounded Cape Horn, for the seas there were not as rough as expected. On the way north we stopped in Montevideo, Uruguay, and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In Rio we donned our swim trunks once again, this time for Copacabana Beach and a real chance to get tans.

Wyandot docked finally at Norfolk on 20 April 1956 – after an adventure that lasted 158 days and a voyage of 27,675 miles.

I had planned to be discharged soon after, but the opportunity arose for transfer to the Fleet Weather Center in London, England, if I extended my service. I had married shortly before leaving on Deep Freeze I. My wife voted for London, so we spent the next 3 years in England. The London facility gave me the chance to do statistical studies and other higher level analysis. I learned more about new electronic equipment.

By the time I did take my discharge in 1959, I was ready for professional challenges I would not have dreamed of before my Navy experiences. I was not

keen on continuing in meteorology, but did want to remain in a scientific field. Even though it was my worst subject in high school, I was persuaded by a faculty counselor to give physics another try. Because of the maturity accrued during my 7 years in the Navy, especially from the technical work I was involved with in Antarctica and in London, I had the confidence finally to take his advice.

I studied not only physics but also advanced math and astronomy. I graduated from the University of Texas with a BS in physics and was recruited to work as an astrophysicist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. During my career at Goddard I earned my MS and PhD degrees, while analyzing magnetic field data from earth-orbiting spacecraft and later from the Mariner 10 mission and the Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 missions. With Mariner 10 we discovered the magnetic field of Mercury and mapped the inner solar system field. With the Voyagers we studied the fields of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, as well as the distant magnetic field of the Sun.

Midwinter and July 4th celebrations at South Pole Station in 1957

by Bob Benson

After congratulating Cliff Dickey on his excellent article in the April Antarctic Society Newsletter (sixty-year-old random memories from the first winter at 90 South), he encouraged me to write an article describing the first July 4th celebration at the South Pole. I agreed to do so. A little background:

I first met Cliff on 12 February 1957 when I arrived at the South Pole. I was on the last plane to land before the darkness and cold of winter set in. Six other winter-over personnel arrived with me on that Navy R4D: Herb Hansen, Mel Havener, Floyd

Johnson, Arlo Landolt, Tom Osborne, and Ed Remington (Moose). I had the honor to be the 18th person to be selected to spend the first winter at the South Pole thanks to Willi Hough.

In the fall of 1956 Willi had argued that another scientist was needed at the South Pole because he was scheduled to operate the ionosphere, seismology, and geomagnetism programs and to assist Arlo with the aurora program. Fortunately, I had submitted my application for the Antarctic International Geophysical Year (IGY) program earlier and it had arrived at the right time. Having just finished my BS degree in geophysics at the University of Minnesota my background appeared to be what Willi was requesting. On his way back to Boulder from the east coast he stopped by Minneapolis to meet me and he gave the OK that he thought he could work with me for a year at the South Pole. I was to be responsible for the seismology program and to help Willi with the ionosphere program and Arlo with the aurora program. Willi was to be responsible for the ionosphere and geomagnetism programs and to help Arlo with the aurora program.

Many of Cliff's stories in the previous newsletter were new to me and reminded me of some of my own, e.g., having to use a primus stove to thaw the end of a long 7-conductor cable so as to bend it into position to fasten the lugs to the terminal strip in the seismometer pit located 1,000 ft from the Science Building. The 7-conductor cable wasn't long enough to reach the Science Building so two additional cables (one 4-conductor and one 3-conductor) were connected to the end of the 7-conductor. This operation required lots of thawing of the plastic coverings while working in the cold tunnel between the seismometer pit and the Science Building.

On July 4th we tried to make some explosives. Paul Siple, Jack Tuck, William McPherson (Mac), Willi, and I prepared a bonfire (excelsior soaked in diesel fuel) in

front of a 55-gallon empty oil drum (except for a few cupfuls of gas and lots of fumes). The hole in the drum was left open, and the setup was ignited by Jack using a flare gun resulting in some beautiful flames but no bang. Moose made a firecracker using powder from some shells, but it just went poof. John filled a balloon with hydrogen, but it just burned. Mac was the only one to make a bang with a firecracker made using black powder from a flare shell.

Midwinter, on 22 June, was our biggest celebration because it marked the halfway point of our 6-month-long winter night. At 4:00 pm we had a feast: a turkey dinner prepared by our cook Chet Segers with some assistance from station leader Paul Siple. This delicious meal was preceded by champagne toasts. We ate by candlelight at a long table with a red table cloth and blue napkins under colorful balloons and Christmas-tree lights.

Earlier in the day, six of us had a somewhat cruder celebration in the form of an outdoor picnic (Arlo, Moose, John Guerrero, Herb Hansen, Doc Taylor, and myself). In my diary I noted that Arlo got me up at 8:00 am on 22 June so we could start our picnic preparations. I retrieved the icecreamsicles from the passageway and brought them into the Science Building to thaw somewhat. They were frozen so hard that we could drive nails into the workbench with them. (Doc Taylor donated some tongue depressors that we used as handles for the ice cream.) Moose made wiener sticks from aluminum rods with nails fastened to the ends. A few days earlier I prepared Jello (using 5 packages) in a large pan. We made a blazing fire using trash and some pre-warmed wood soaked in kerosene. We enjoyed this fire with our hot dogs, Jello, and ice cream under a clear starry sky with lots of aurora. The hot dogs didn't stay hot long with the temperature at minus 75 degrees and a 20 knot wind. After Doc cooked his, he screamed "Now, how do I get it in my face mask!" It was good that the

Jello was in a pan that we could keep by the fire - it was superb. Almost everyone ate their ice cream. It was necessary to hold it over the fire in between bites. Mine fell in the fire. After a minute of fishing around I was able to rescue it. It was a little softer after that warmup and easier to eat. Herb was particularly enthusiastic over his ice cream until he realized that he had eaten half of the stick. Doc Taylor brought a ukulele, but complained that it went in or out of tune depending on how close he was to the fire. We sang some songs and all had a good time. It was a great picnic: smoke in the eyes was somewhat irritating, but there were no ants.

Bob continued his ionospheric interest at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, where, after earning MS and PhD degrees, he has been actively involved in research for over 50 years (currently as an emeritus scientist). Bob and his wife Marilyn live in Silver Spring, Maryland.

David Ferguson, Scottish Antarctic geologist

by Guy G. Guthridge

What's in a name?

During three Holland America Line *Zaandam* cruises every summer that include travel in Antarctica, your editor – armed with maps, electronic charts, reference books, travel guides, and histories – spends the four Antarctic days on the bridge using an all-call to tell passengers about sights. They learn, and I do too. In Paradise Harbor we loitered near the Argentine seasonal station Brown. I commented that Coughtrey Peninsula, on which the station is built, was “first mapped as an island in 1913-14 by Scottish geologist David Ferguson.”

In Moon Bay by Livingston Island we looked at Edinburgh Hill, “photographed

and named by Scottish geologist David Ferguson in 1913-14.”

Mount Inverleith in Graham Land: “first charted and named Inverleith Hill by Scottish geologist David Ferguson in 1913-14.”

Who was David Ferguson? A search through the 1995 *Geographic Names of the Antarctic* (free pdf from usgs.gov) came up with 21 Antarctic Peninsula places Ferguson named or charted, all in the 1913-1914 season.

But, in that season, no research expedition was in the Antarctic Peninsula area. After Charcot left in 1910, the next documented exploring or science wasn't done until the 1921 winter when two young Englishmen studied penguins at Waterboat Point.

How did Ferguson get to all those places he named? Society Secretary Joan Boothe prompts the answer in *The Storied Ice* (Regent Press, 2011): he was not with a science expedition at all. From 1905 to 1931, whaling was the overwhelming human presence along the Antarctic Peninsula. Factory ships, catcher ships, and shore whaling stations numbered in the hundreds. Some, Joan points out, welcomed scientists.

Like the whalers, Ferguson was after resources. He was a mining engineer and a geologist who had worked in Africa, Iran, Newfoundland, and Great Britain.

In the 1911-1912 season he had surveyed South Georgia. His sponsor for that work, and for the Antarctic prospecting, was Christian Salvesen and Company of Leith (it continues today as a logistics firm), which then did whaling, shipping, and mining. The company held a minerals lease from the U.K. Colonial Office for both South Georgia and the Antarctic.

Ferguson's prospecting came half a century before the Antarctic Treaty set aside territorial claims and 80 years before the treaty's environmental protocol forbade mining. The Salvesen lease was issued under British Letters Patent of 21 July 1908

claiming the Antarctic Peninsula area as U.K. territory.

No Antarctic mining occurred as a result of Ferguson's survey.

Instead, Ferguson, perhaps anticipating a more permanent value of his investigations, documented his findings in the open scientific literature: the 28-page "Geological observations in the South Shetlands, the Palmer Archipelago, and Graham Land, Antarctica," published 16 December 1921 in *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*.

Few geologists had investigated the Antarctic Peninsula before he came along. Raymond J. Adie's "Geological investigations in the Falkland Islands Dependencies before 1940" (*Polar Record*, 1957, p. 502-513) cites James Clark Ross in 1843 (samples were taken to England) and geologist Henryk Arctowski with de Gerlache's *Belgica* expedition in 1898, along with Nordenskjöld's 1901-1903 expedition and geologist Ernest Gourdon on both of Charcot's expeditions (1903-1905 and 1908-1910).

A problem, for a geologist, was trying to use a ship. Adie writes, "The majority of geologists who have worked in the Antarctic from ships have had to adopt 'hit and run' tactics in order to achieve results in the short space of time available to them." Many early geological observations in the area were no more than comments in the journals of ships' captains and surgeons. Geological specimens typically were collected as a matter of personal interest, and most were not thought of as scientifically valuable.

Ferguson had better ship support than others. His company had engaged the small, fast whaler *Hanka*, which "proved very suitable for prospecting work." The expedition traversed 3,000 miles in the Antarctic and collected 131 bags of rock specimens over a northeast to southwest direction of 270 miles, all in that single season.

Regarding the significance of Ferguson's Antarctic work, Adie seems lukewarm: Ferguson "examined many of the well-known harbors of the Danco Coast and confirmed the earlier investigations by the *Francais* expedition [led by the Frenchman Charcot]."

Ferguson's specimens – those 131 bags – went to the Natural History Museum in South Kensington, the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh, and the Sedgwick Museum in Cambridge. Back home, petrologist G.W. Tyrrell analyzed them and published his own study, "A contribution to the petrology of the South Shetland Islands, the Palmer Archipelago, and the Danco Land Coast, Graham Land, Antarctica," in the same *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh* (p. 57-79) as Ferguson's paper.

David Ferguson (c1857-1936), already trained as a mining engineer, had taken classes in geology and mineralogy at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, between 1905 and 1908. Its museum's largest collection of Antarctic rocks was collected by him. The university archives Ferguson's papers and field notebooks, as well.

A 2013 paper by Phil Stone and John Faithfull in the *Falkland Islands Journal* (vol. 10, no. 2, "David Ferguson's mineral prospecting visit to the Falkland Islands, 1913-1914") provides a significant footnote to the early work. The authors state, "Until recently, the value of this material was limited by a lack of accompanying archival data. Then, in November 2003, the Bank of Scotland Archives gifted to Glasgow University a collection of papers that had been retained from the estate of David Ferguson since his death in 1936. . . . The material proved to include Ferguson's field notebooks from his South Atlantic and Antarctic prospecting trips; they are partly water-damaged, but the writing and diagrams are mostly clear and comprehensible. They provide a fascinating

accompaniment to the rock specimens. Confidential reports on his prospecting were of course submitted by Ferguson to the Salvesen Company and these, together with some of his photographs and letters, are preserved in the Salvesen Archive, now held by the library of the University of Edinburgh. Taken together, this wealth of material throws light on a little-known contribution to the scientific exploration of the South Atlantic region. It is to be regretted that whilst prints and original glass plate negatives for many of Ferguson's photographs from South Georgia and the South Shetlands are present in the Salvesen Archive, none of his Falklands photographs seem to have survived."

Back to the Antarctic place names that stimulated my interest. Despite those 21 features Ferguson charted or named for others, no one named an Antarctic feature for Ferguson. The closest he gets is South Georgia, where in 1957 the United Kingdom named 560-meter Ferguson Peak (54°47'S 35°50'W), 21 years after his death and 43 years after his summer of prospecting in Antarctica.

Race for the South Pole: the forgotten role of the United States

by Joan N. Boothe

In the last several years, multiple celebrations have recognized centennials of the 15 expeditions of Antarctica's Heroic Age — expeditions from Belgium, Great Britain, Germany, France, Norway, Japan, and Australia. Missing from this list is the United States. Where were the Americans while explorers from other countries were looking south, while men from Norway and Britain were racing to be first to the South Pole, and while others were laying the foundations of Antarctic land exploration and science?

In particular, why was no American expedition involved in the "Race to the Pole" – 90°S latitude – where a U.S. research station has existed since 1956-57?

Nearly forgotten today is the fact that the United States was *not* entirely absent from the Antarctic Heroic Age.

When the period began, in 1897, American interest in the polar regions was focused on the Arctic, especially on Robert Peary's repeated efforts to conquer the North Pole. In September 1909, Frederick Cook declared that he had attained the Pole in April 1908, snatching the long-sought prize from Peary. Less than a week after Cook's bombshell, Peary delivered his news: that he had achieved the Pole in early April 1909. The opposing claims for primacy immediately ignited fierce controversy. Peary's partisans soon drowned out the few voices raised in support of Cook, and Peary was acclaimed the "discoverer" of the North Pole. Today, many doubt both Peary's claims and Cook's long discredited ones.

The North Pole prize had been claimed, but the South Pole remained unconquered. Until 1910, the Race for the South Pole was a matter of first one expedition trying for the Pole and failing, then another making a follow-up attempt. Peary's claim of the North Pole altered the game. Accepting that the North Pole had been conquered, Norwegian Roald Amundsen secretly decided that he would enter the contest for the South Pole, rather than taking an expedition directly to the Arctic as he had announced originally. A true race for the South Pole was on, with both entrants — Robert F. Scott of Britain and the initially secret Amundsen — heading for the goal the same summer.

Early in 1910 Scott was as yet unaware that Amundsen would challenge him. But he did know of another potential challenger: Robert Peary and the Americans. With the North Pole prize claimed, Peary

had decided to mount a 1910 expedition from the United States.

In February that year, Peary proposed to the National Geographic Society that it and the Peary Arctic Club jointly sponsor an expedition to bag the South Pole for the United States – an expedition whose “primary object . . . would be to plant the Stars and Stripes at the South Pole. . . .” The expedition would leave home in August 1910 and set out for the South Pole in the summer of 1911-12, precisely when Scott was planning his attempt. This challenge to Scott was direct and public, although Peary proposed starting from not the Ross Sea but the other side of the Antarctic continent.

Peary was 53 years old and worn out from his Arctic efforts. He had no interest in leading an Antarctic expedition himself. But Bob Bartlett, who had been Peary’s ship captain in the Arctic, was prepared to go as expedition leader, and many other members of Peary’s North Pole expedition were eager to participate. Peary offered his Arctic vessel the *Roosevelt*, his polar equipment, and \$10,000. He looked to the National Geographic Society for the additional \$50,000 he estimated would be needed to get the expedition going.

The Society was enthusiastic. But contributing any money, let alone \$50,000, was out of the question because it had committed its funds to acquiring a new building. The Directors turned to Society members, asking for donations. Two months of appeals brought in only a few thousand dollars, far less than what Peary thought necessary. In April, the Society withdrew its support and returned the contributions. Peary, with nowhere to turn in time for an August 1910 departure, abandoned the plan. The Race for the Pole would be left to Great Britain’s Robert Falcon Scott and Norway’s Roald Amundsen. (A Japanese expedition led by Nobu Shirase was hoping to compete, but the effort was never a serious one for the pole itself.) On 14 December 1911,

Amundsen’s team of five reached the Pole. Robert Falcon Scott’s party of five followed on 17 January 1912.

The “Race to the South Pole” was over, with Amundsen and Norway the victors over Scott and Great Britain. No U.S. team even reached the starting gate.

The United States would remain absent from Antarctic exploration for nearly two more decades, until Richard Byrd arrived in Antarctica with a large expedition in early 1929. Following a winter at the coastal base he called Little America, in November 1929 he and three others would make the first plane flight over the South Pole.

And in November 1956 a U.S. plane made the first ever landing at the Pole, bringing the first men to stand on the surface since Scott’s team had left in 1912. That austral summer, the United States established Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, 90°S. Eighteen men – and one dog – spent the winter, beginning an unbroken human occupation at the South Pole that continues today, nearly 60 years later. Robert Peary perhaps would have been proud to know that even though Americans didn’t get there first, the Stars and Stripes have been planted at the South Pole for international collaboration in science under the Antarctic Treaty.

John Splettstoesser, 1933-2016

John Frederick Splettstoesser died 25 January 2016 of a massive heart attack in his home in Waconia, Minnesota. A geologist, he specialized in landforms and wind erosion, and on the effect of changing climate on glaciers. His work took him to all three poles – geographic, geomagnetic, magnetic – north and south. Over eight summer field seasons, work in Antarctica between 1960 and 1986 focused on the Jones, Ellsworth, and Transantarctic mountains – ranges in the continent’s

interior – as well as the Ross Ice Shelf, Byrd, South Pole, and Vostok for ice studies and geophysics. He worked on the other six continents, too, and on islands the world over.

The outdoor work fueled 180 papers under his name in peer-reviewed journals and in conference proceedings along with five books that he edited or coedited on polar subjects: *Ice-Core Drilling* (1976), *Geology of the Central Transantarctic Mountains* (1986), *Mineral Resources Potential of Antarctica* (1990), *Geology and Paleontology of the Ellsworth Mountains* (1992), and *Antarctic Tourism* (1994).

John was a member of the Antarctican Society since 1963, and he was its president from 2002 to 2004.

John's employers, starting in 1962, were the American Geological Institute, where he was a writer and an editor, and then the Library of Congress (1964-1967), where he was an editor and a supervisor on the NSF-funded *Antarctic Bibliography*, the world's most complete on that topic and a resource today. Moving to Columbus, Ohio, from 1967 to 1974 he was associate director, then acting director, of the Institute of Polar Studies, Ohio State University, a premier polar research center then and now (present name: Byrd Polar Research Center). John relocated in 1974 to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he codirected the Ross Ice Shelf Project Management Office, a multi-institutional scientific inquiry that included first research drilling through the ice shelf.

In 1979 John became program manager and senior scientist at the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Geological Survey, a position he held until 1989. During that same period, he was a consultant and an educator advising science museums, performing technical editing, and lecturing on tour ships to polar regions and other areas.

From 1991 to 1994 he was visiting faculty at the College of the Atlantic, Bar

Harbor, Maine, teaching course on the geology of that state's Mount Desert Island and on the ecology and politics of Antarctica.

The lecturing experiences on cruise ships led to a role as spokesperson and advisor to the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators since its founding in 1991. He participated in Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings held in Germany (1991), Italy (1992), Japan (1994), South Korea (1995), the Netherlands (1996), Poland (2002), and South Africa (2004). He testified on pending Antarctic tourism regulations before the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

John was born 17 October 1933 in his parents' house in Waconia, Minnesota, where he also died. He graduated from Waconia High School in 1951 and was class president his freshman and senior years. John graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1962 and received higher education from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School and the Industrial and Management Systems Engineering School at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Enlisted in the U.S. Army Signal Corps 1954-1956 and trained as a radio operator proficient in sending and receiving Morse Code, he operated radioteletype and other communications equipment at locations in the United States and Korea. He trained in astronomical surveying at the U.S. Geological Survey and learned mountain climbing at the Exum Mountaineering School in Teton National Park.

Slide scanning report

by Charles H. Lagerbom, Society Historian

The Antarctican Society scanning effort has doubled in size of its operations. Earlier in the year, Tom Henderson, Society

Webmaster, used the society's back-up scanner to digitize more members' slide collections – a methodical and time-consuming process.

One completed project is Bob Dodson's wonderful slides from the 1940s-era Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition. Bob provided comments and details for just about every slide; the result is an important visual/historical record.

Antarctican Jim Burnham's large slide collection (+2,100) from his 1957-1958 years in Antarctica is being scanned and cataloged.

We now have a database of +40,000 digitized images from over 50 collections spanning nearly 70 years of Antarctic history. It is hoped that all these images will become accessible and searchable for members in the society's website, with the ability for members to add comments and further identification.

Another future idea is that a series of shots from the same location can show a timeline. For instance, a member might search "McMurdo Station + Observation Hill" and access related slides from every collection in our database. Many who went through McMurdo and climbed Observation Hill took a picture from pretty much the same vantage point at the top! Exciting possibilities for this growing database for and by Antarcticans.

Nick Knezevich, 1948–2015

Society member Nick Knezevich Jr. died 10 September 2015 with liver cancer. He lived in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with his wife Faira. Nick was in the Navy for 6 years and said his most interesting tour was to winter (in 1974) as an electronics technician at South Pole Station.

He worked much of his career at the FAA as an engineer, receiving numerous

awards. Retiring in 2005, he established a company, Digital and Linear Systems Research, and repaired avionics on L39 jets. His favorite thing was airplanes, and he loved flying.

Knezevich Rock, a summit outcrop on Mount Takahe in Marie Byrd Land, is named in Nick's honor.

Third winter medevac from SPole

The well-publicized June 2016 medical evacuation of two ailing personnel was only the third such winter mission from Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. Prior missions were performed in 2001 and 2003.

Two Twin Otters operated by Kenn Borek Air, a Canadian company with a long-term U.S. Antarctic Program contract for aviation support, staged through South America to the British Antarctic Survey station Rothera, on the Antarctic Peninsula. Then, one went on to Pole to complete the southbound part of the mission.

"It really is just kind of what we do," chief pilot Wally Dobchuk told the *Washington Post* (7 July). "It came down to, you know, I guess planning it. ... We didn't get caught off guard. We weren't worried about anything. We weren't scared."

Air traffic to Pole normally is summer only, November-February.

Colleagues had flown the Twin Otters from Canada to Punta Arenas, Chile, enabling the six crew members who would do the Antarctic part to fly commercially and arrive rested. They waited 2 days for weather, then reached Rothera 20 June.

On 21 June, the three air crew and a medic flew one of the planes on to Pole for "a nice buffalo steak" and some sleep before heading north with two passengers – one said to have a gastric problem, the other having suffered a heart attack. On 23 June they delivered the patients to Punta Arenas for treatment not available at Pole.